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(19)

(11)

EP 1 547 681 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
07.09.2005 Bulletin 2005/36

(51) Int Cl.7: B01J 19/12, H05B 6/80

(43) Date of publication A2:
29.06.2005 Bulletin 2005/26

(21) Application number: 04255177.0

(22) Date of filing: 27.08.2004

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL HR LT LV MK

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(30) Priority: 02.09.2003 US 605021

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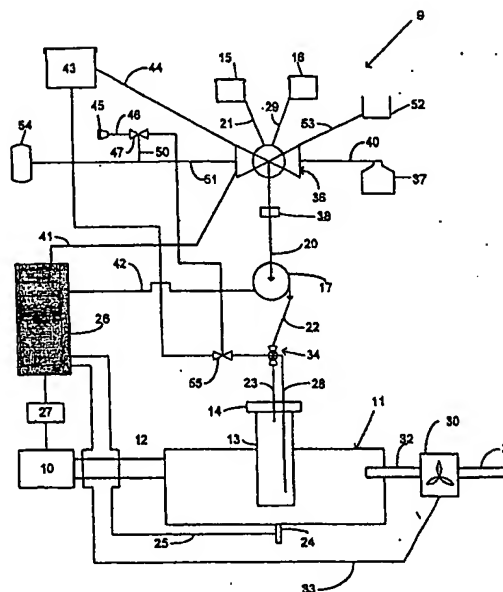
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(54) Controlled flow instrument for microwave assisted chemical process

(57) A controlled-flow microwave instrument is disclosed for chemical synthesis using heterogeneous or highly viscous starting materials. The instrument includes a microwave source (10) for generating electromagnetic radiation in the microwave frequencies, a microwave cavity (11) in wave communication with the source for exposing compositions placed therein to microwave radiation, a microwave-transparent pressure resistant reaction vessel (13) in the cavity, a source reservoir (15) for starting materials and related compositions, a pump (17) in communication with the source reservoir for pumping heterogeneous or highly viscous materials from the source reservoir to the reaction vessel, and a pressure-resistant valve (34) between the pump and the reaction vessel for isolating the reaction vessel from the pump and the source reservoir during application of microwave energy to compositions in the vessel and from any resulting high pressures generated therein.

Figure 1



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EP 04 25 5177

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